

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claim 1 was rejected, claims 2-10 were objected to, and claims 11-20 were withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The minor informality in claim 2 noted by the Examiner has been deleted, thereby rendering this objection moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

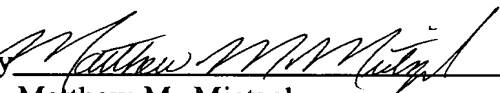
Claim 1 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,597 issued to Russell et al. (hereinafter "Russell '597") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,119,862 issued to Gocho (hereinafter "Gocho '862"). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have simplified the preamble of claim 1 by eliminating language not recited in the body of the claim. Consequently, these preamble amendments are not believed to affect the allowance of claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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